

Frequently Asked Questions

About Re-refined Motor Oil, Recycled Anti-freeze and EPP Lubricants

| QUESTION | ANSWER |
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| What is re-refined oil? | Re-refined base oil is the end product of a long process involving used oils. These are oils first cleansed of their contaminants (such as dirt, water, fuel and used additives) through vacuum distillation. The oil is the hydrotreated to remove any remaining chemicals. This process is very similar to what traditional oil refineries do to remove base oil from crude. Finally, the re-refined base oil is combined with a fresh additive package by the blender to bring it up to industry performance levels. |
| Is re-refined oil as good as virgin? | YES. Test after test has shown that an American Petroleum Institute(API) certified re-refined oil is of equal or better quality than an oil made from a virgin base stock. API licensed re-refined oils must pass the same cold start and pumpability tests, rust corrosion, engine wear, high temperature viscosity, deposit and phosphorus tests that virgin oils do. The API and American Automobile Manufacturers Association (AAMA) have developed the Engine Oil Licensing Certification System (EOLCS) to ensure that all engine oils consistently meet performance specifications. |
| Will re-refined oil void my warranty or hurt my engine? | NO and NO. Vehicle and engine manufacturers such as Ford, GM, Chrysler and Mercedes Benz have all gone on record to state that using API certified re-refined oil does not affect warranty coverage. The Magnusson-Moss Warranty Act also states that warranties cannot be voided by manufacturers if the re-refined oil meets the manufacturers recommendations. In fact, Mercedes Benz has been using re-refined oil to fill new cars at their factories for several years. |
| Does re-refined oil cost more? | NOT USUALLY - OFTEN COSTS SLIGHTLY LESS. There is no significant price difference between re-refined and virgin oils, although often re-refined will be slightly cheaper. Otherwise, prices may vary, depending on such factors as location, type of oil, blend, suppliers, and market forces. |
| How many times can oil be re-refined? | OVER AND OVER. According to industry experts and manufacturers, oil doesn't wear out, it just gets dirty as it does its job. Once water and contaminants are removed from the used oil, it can be re-refined time and again without compromising the quality of the lubricant. |
| Why should I buy re-refined oil? | Executive Order #350 (Clean State) requires Massachusetts agencies to commit to environmentally sound practices, including the procurement of products made with recycled materials. Executive agencies alone directly purchase thousands of dollars worth of transmission and motor oil products annually, not including oil purchased as a result of service contracts or authority purchases. In addition, buying re-refined oil products helps to "close the loop" for these products, creating increased demand for used oil and hopefully encouraging consumers and businesses alike to properly store and recycle their waste oil, rather than dumping it down the drain to contaminate waterways & harbors and destroy wildlife. |
| Isn't this a relatively new product - why should I be the guinea pig? | IT'S NOT NEW. Re-refined motor oil has been used throughout the United States with great success for years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US Post Office has been using re-refined oil for nearly a decade in their fleet of almost 73,000 vehicles. • The state of Vermont has used re-refined motor and hydraulic oils for approximately 7 years and is very happy with its performance. • Snohomish County, Washington State has used re-refined oil since 1991 in all its 1,242 vehicles. • The City of Chicago has purchased only re-refined motor oil since about 1992, buying approximately 107,500 gallons per year. All vehicles use re-refined oil, including police and fire department vehicles. • In Toronto, Canada, the Toronto Transit Commission has purchased only re-refined motor oil since 1989. Approximately 800,000 gallons per year has been used in 1500 buses which travel over 56 million kilometers each year. The Commission even found that re-refined oil was priced significantly lower than virgin oil. |
| Who has used recycled antifreeze? | State and local government offices throughout Massachusetts, such as the MBTA and City of Boston have been purchasing recycled antifreeze for years with no reported concerns, as well as similar departments in other states. Customers may call the contractor for a list of names and numbers. |
| How can I be assured the bio-based lubricants | The vegetable based lubricants on the contract have been thoroughly evaluated through industry performance testing and in the field. They are certified to meet OEM specifications and carry documentation of their ASTM compliance with all the standard tests for Typical and Performance Properties. |

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| perform well ? | |
| ★ How & where can I purchase these products? | Call the Contract Manger, Paul Trainor (617)720-3112, or either of the OSD environmental contacts: Marcia Deegler , (617) 720-3356 and Eric Friedman (617) 720-3351. You can also visit the OSD environmental web site at: www.magnet.state.ma.us/osd/enviro/enviro.htm to link to the complete contract #VEH18. |